



US Army Corps
of Engineers

District Dispatch

Holiday Edition December 1999

Vol.18 No. 3



Happy Holidays



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the Chief

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The Colonel's Corner



LTC Mark S. Held
Charleston District
District Engineer

As most of you may know, I spent Wednesday the 15th of December briefing the Chief of Engineers on the Charleston District's commander's assessment. I am proud to announce that this very critical event in the life of a new commander went very well. In fact, things could not have gone better, and the execution of our program and your continued efforts made this event easy to pull off. The greatest part of commanding a district is that you get to represent, as I told the Chief, "142 dedicated, hardworking folks".

One of the highlights of this visit was a spirited debate amongst the new commanders of "who had the roughest beginning to their command." Well, once the stories were tallied, and as you can imagine, I won hands down. Compared to my peers, my start has been compared to one of the four horsemen of the apocalypse,

"and death came on a pale horse". It would have been funny if it had not been true. Anyway, I received one free beverage as the winner. I hope that I have done you all justice by representing you to the Chief of Engineers.

To just let you know what is on our plate in the next quarter, please check our home page. Some highlights include the Chief's visit to our

Town Hall meeting Jan. 25 and the SAD Senior Leader Conference hosted by Charleston in early February. We will also be concentrating on getting hold of our finances and working the headquarters building issue. I hope all of you enjoyed the flag raising and holiday reception. The grinch did not steal Christmas but he intends to closely watch every penny we spend for the rest of the year. Thanks to Robin and the folks in the Castle Club for a great party.

To answer the most asked question, the Citadel move will be handled at the HQ USACE level. Whatever the outcome, we will do the best we can, as we always do. We will be moving full steam ahead in the harbor project, and the fish lift is scheduled for completion in late January. Of course, these are but a few events that will keep us busy, but no matter what difficulties the future holds, it has to be better than the last quarter.

As you settle into our new home, please be cautious about lifting and moving heavy objects.

If you need assistance ask for help. We will be considering options to make our new home a better place to work in the near future. I know that things are not perfect, and we will continue to work out the bugs, but just remember that at least the heat is on during the winter.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for a great year. Your accomplishments are too many to list without the chance of missing one, so I will just close by wishing all of you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Held family. We plan to stay in Charleston for the entire holiday season and look forward to not traveling for a change. For those of you who do, may God bless and keep you in your travels. Enjoy your visits to all of your friends and families, and please return safe and sound.

Merry Christmas



Holiday Safety From the Chief

from LTG Joe N. Ballard

The holidays are traditionally a period of time for celebration, family reunions, and giving thanks for our many blessings. I want to extend special holiday thanks to our Corps of Engineers soldiers and civilians who are supporting the Army and our Nation at home and overseas.

1. For many Americans, this is also time for travel. Unfortunately, many accidents occur during the holiday season. To avoid being a holiday statistic, take the time to plan, think and act with safety in mind. Be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of those around you.

2. If your plans include long hours of highway travel, take precautions against increased dangers of high speed and impaired driving. Buckle our seatbelt, drive defensively, and stay within the posted speed limits. Also allow sufficient time for rest periods to reduce stress and fatigue.

3. The accidental injury or death of any member of the Corps family causes needless personal tragedy and hardship. The price of a life is far too great to consider a dangerous risk or compromise. Please be

sure that safety and accident prevention considerations are integral parts of your daily life. You and your family are our most valuable resource.

4. My family and I extend our sincerest wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

JOE N. BALLARD
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Tips from the Safety Office

by: Mark Turner
Charleston District Safety Officer

During the upcoming holiday season, soldiers, civilians, and their family members will participate in various religious and personal celebrations of the season. With a significant influx of vehicles on the road, the chances for accidents are more likely. Be sensitive to this potential accident threat and heighten your "sixth sense" for safety.

If you are one of the many people who drive some distance to see family or friends during the

holidays, follow these safe-driving tips. Pre-plan your trip, including scheduled rest stops. Leave your itinerary with someone who knows where you are. Don't overload your car or obstruct your view. Avoid eating a heavy meal before leaving for a trip. An empty stomach will help you remain alert. Follow other vehicles, especially trucks, at a safe distance.

If you are traveling in winter weather, be sure to carry a winter survival kit in your car that contains first-aid supplies, blan-

kets, a compass, a flashlight, flares, a shovel and quick-energy foods. Also take a bag of salt, sand, or cat litter to use for traction in case your car gets stuck in ice or snow.

I wish every member of our team a happy, safe holiday season. You can look back with pride at your passing year of professional and personal accomplishment. As always, remember: "Safety is embedded in everything the Charleston District team does."



Not even Hurricane Floyd could stop Saulo from sorting the mail. During the storm, the mail room set up shop in room 205 of the Federal Building.

Going...



DTOS units were sent to Charleston in order to keep the district operating. USACE headquarters sent two DTOS systems consisting of six trucks with office space. Many offices worked out of the units for four months.

Due to Hurricane Floyd, the Charleston District was forced to relocate. Previously, the district was located at the Federal Building in downtown Charleston. Our new home is in North Charleston on Goer Drive. Due to the building's structural damage, Charleston District employees worked for four months in the Deployable Tactical Operations Center. After the move was completed, a special flag raising ceremony was held to officially raise the flag for the first time at our new building.

Going...



The Regulatory department was the first department to move into the new building. The moving process began in early November. The remaining Corps employees moved throughout November and early December.

Gone.



On Friday, Dec. 17, the Charleston District held a flag raising ceremony in front of the new building. The ceremony was held to dedicate the new building and to observe the first official flag raising.



These Corps employees are eager to get involved with the new business plan.

Charleston District Business Plan Unveiled

by: Lisa Metheny

When Lt. Col. Held assumed command he said he thought of himself as the CEO for the Charleston District. In keeping with the business theme, the District's Business Plan for FY 00 was unveiled Friday during a presentation by Lisa Metheny. The Business Plan is the culmination of two months work by 33 District employees. It focuses on the areas of Corporate Outreach, Managing Technology, Capable Workforce and Business Practices. The plan will serve as the basis for long range planning for the District.

Committee members worked diligently to identify goals and objectives associated with each area. By meeting these objectives, the District will be in a position to increase not only the amount of work but also the variety of work the District performs.

Lt. Col. Held is extremely supportive of the Business Plan concept. So much so that he has established a Corporate Bonus Plan. Each goal identified in the business plan is tied to

the bonus. Progress will be charted so we can see how we are doing. Meeting the goals not only makes the District more viable in the long run, but rewards the team via a bonus in the short run.

Some of the goals and activities highlighted in Friday's presentation were:

- Grow the District program 10% and add at least 1 new customer
- Establish a Formal Outreach Team
- Energize the District Team through various activities (such as the Project Spotlight by Dennis McKinley)
- Integrate the District's GIS system and make the Regulatory information available to the public
- Establish a Fitness Program for the District
- Enter into additional Cooperative Education Agreements with area colleges

- Review at least 2 current business practices for improvement
- Develop a Long Range Strategic Plan for the District

Speaking of the plan Lt. Col. Held said, "The toughest part of any plan is not the formulation. It is the effort it takes to continue the momentum throughout the year. I believe this will be our greatest strength and I have every reason to believe that Charleston's Business Plan has the elements of a successful tool: simplicity, empowerment and flexibility. I intended to use this plan as a way to deflect focus from the difficulties associated with the move. What I got was a lesson in how professional folks are in this district.

The Business Plan will serve as a guide to the District as we move into the 21st Century. In the next edition we will take an in-depth look at the business plan and how it will affect the District.

District Folks...

Congratulations to:

Jon Jellema on the birth of his daughter Julia Grace. Julia was born on Friday Nov. 5.

Doug Holmes on his promotion as Team Leader in General Engineering.

Welcome to:

Brandon Stutts who joined the Regulatory Branch as a biologist on Dec. 19. Brandon will be working in Columbia at the field office.

Steve Hagen who joined the Information Management Team as a graphic artist on Nov. 15.

Catherine Jorden who joined the Regulatory Branch as a regulatory clerk on Dec. 6.

Farewell to:

Paul Crosby who retired on Dec. 3.

Jane Acker who retired on Dec. 31.

David Harris who was promoted to the position of FCCE program manager in the Emergency Management Division, South Atlantic Division.

Jerry McSwain who resigned from St. Stephen Powerhouse on Dec. 17.



Patrick Wilson, the son of Joe Wilson, recently returned from the 1999 Sunfish Worlds Championship Regatta in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He was one of only 25 Americans to receive an invitation.

There were 15 countries represented with 21 Juniors and a total of 105 competitors in the event. He was the youngest American and finished as the top Junior from the USA; there were 5 Juniors representing the USA. Overall Patrick finished 47 out of the field of 105 boats. In his best race he finished 7th out of the entire field of 105 boats. In that race he beat the three-time World Champion and a host of other excellent sailors.

In his own words, "We expected 15-knot trade winds every day, but Hurricane Lenny gave us calm before and after the hurricane. There were 8 races scheduled but because of light to no wind, the committee could only finish five races. Out of the 5 races sailed, we

went backwards with the current in four of the races sailed. In the one race that did have constant winds, I was second to the first mark. This was quite a thrill to look back and see a fleet of 100 plus boats on my stern. I had a very good start and actually lead part of that first leg. After the fourth leg which was also the last mark, I was 4th and made the mistake of going for the pin instead of the committee boat to finish. Three boats passed me but I still managed to finish 7th out of 105 boats."

Joe accompanied his son on this trip to Ponce, a Corps employee provided housing, and three sailing organizations in the Charleston area provided the funding. It was quite an experience that neither father nor son is likely to forget.

Patrick is a student at First Baptist School and was just inducted into the High School National Honor Society and his proud father works on the General and Cost Engineering Team.



Charleston District Responds to Y2K

by: Marlene Judy
Emergency Management Office

The possibility exists that the date rollover from 31 Dec 1999 to 1 Jan 2000 (Y2K) and other related dates may cause some automated systems to fail due to the inability of software, firmware, and/or embedded microchips' to process dated data streams or conduct date-related computations.

These failures could adversely impact our ability to execute assigned missions and/or adversely impact other systems requiring our support. In addition to the vulnerabilities of the information infrastructure, certain dates may occasion failures in the support infrastructure that the Charleston District and the Corps takes for granted (e.g. power, water, communications, transport, finance, etc.).

Charleston District confirms its ability to execute missions in a Y2K environment and is prepared to respond to Division, HQUSACE, and other federal agencies in the event of an

emergency. Charleston District will maintain the ability to continue providing responsive engineering services to the Army and the Nation in a Y2K failure environment.

In addition to monitoring and responding to internal emergencies resulting directly or indirectly from Y2K, we will also support FEMA under the structure of the Federal Response Plan (FRP) in the execution of Emergency Declaration(s) as assigned through proper channels.

The Charleston District-EOC will be activated from Dec 31, 1999 to Jan. 1, 2000. Information Management will inspect all systems prior to Dec. 31, 1999 and after Jan. 1, 2000. Ice PRT members, Mission Specialist and Contracting, as well as a Resource Management person will be on call during the activation of the EOC. Charleston District Emergency Management and Information Management personnel will be on alert during Dec. 27, 1999 through Jan. 4, 2000.



*Seasons
Greetings and
Happy New
Year from the
Army Corps of
Engineers.*